

Communication and Information Services Centre, Computer Centre and Bio-Informatics Centre. This merger is based on the Vision Plan worked out by the University for setting up new Centres/Schools in frontier arrears of Science and Technology during the IXth Plan period. This was also approved by the Academic Council and Executive Council in their meetings held on 4-11-99 and 29-11-99 respectively. Subsequently the matter was also placed before the Court in its meeting held on 4th July, 2000. As informed by the University, no hurry was shown by them in the matter.

Workshop on child abuse and rape

3131. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Human Rights Commission organized a work shop on child abuse and rape in New Delhi, in mid December, 2000;
- (b) if so, whether the workshop concluded that there was urgent need to redefine rape and child abuse in legal terms;
- (c) whether the National Commission of Women is also of late stressed the need for redefining rape and child abuse and has considered the existing definition as too restrictive; and
- (d) what steps have been taken in the light thereof to amend the rape law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in collaboration with Angaja Foundation, an NGO organized a workshop on 14-15 December, 2000 to sensitise judges, lawyers and police officials on the issues of child rape and child sexual abuse.

(b) The recommendations made in the workshop are being finalized by the NHRC.

(c) Yes, Sir. To consider amendments in the laws concerning rape, the National Commission for Women has recently conducted State-wise workshops involving lawyers, members of judiciary and police force, social workers etc. The Commission brought out a compendium titled 'Rape—A Legal Study', which contained the recommendations that emerged out of these workshops. The recommendations *inter-alia* contained uniformly raising the age of consent under Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code and all correlated laws to 18 years; giving a broader definition for the word 'rape' to include various types of sexual assault; deletion of the exception relating to marital rape under Section 375 of the IPC, etc.

(d) The recommendations made by the National Commission for Women have been forwarded to the Ministry of Home Affairs for appropriate action.

News-item on appointment of Commissioner of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan

3132. SHRI B.P. SINGHAL:

SHRI GAYA SINGH:

SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards a news-item captioned "Kendriya Vidyalayas ke ayukta ki Niyukti Ko CAT ne radd Kiya", which appeared in the Nav Bharat Times dated the 9th January, 2001 edition of New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether Government have gone in appeal against the order of the Tribunal;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, whether the vacancy has since been advertised; and

(e) the rationale of his still continuing?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.